



PERCEPTIONS

SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area's LGBT Community

September/October 2013

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Free



Summer Picnic

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AIDS Walk

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Perceptions Saginaw Valley is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

Perceptions is Mid-Michigan's leading resource for enriching and empowering LGBT individuals and their community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide superior educational programs, networking opportunities and services for the well being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals and their community.



Travel in China

by Kathy Lloyd

The Perceptions General Meeting, on Thursday, September 19, 2013, was treated to an interesting PowerPoint presentation by Beth Sibray and Becky Anderson. This couple was sent to Shanghai, China by Beth's employer, where they lived and worked for over 2 ½ years.

The night was started with some interesting facts about China, that most of us weren't aware of. For instance, China is approximately the same size as the United States, however they have 4 times the population and only a 1/3 of the water that we have. Beth shared with us that the restrictions imposed by the government, to only have one child, were encouraged and supported by the Chinese people. Becky added that this restriction was mainly in the cities, and that the rural people, who worked in agriculture, could still have as many children as they wanted or needed.

You really can't talk about China, without understanding the cultural revolution. This was imposed by the communist government from 1966-1976. One of the main tenants of this revolution was that no one could be educated beyond the 7th grade. The government felt the country needed workers and not educated people. This had an enormous impact on the people born between 1949-1959. Beth shared that their friend and driver, born during those years, was a driver, while his older brother, born before the revolution, was a doctor. This also impacted industry, which had and still has no one educated enough to fill the white collar jobs which China is in need of. This is one of the reasons that Beth was sent there. At this time China is a socialist country and no longer a communist one.

Continues Next Page

China Article Continued

When Beth and Becky arrived in Shanghai, they were provided with both a female interpreter and a male driver. The language barrier was almost impossible to bridge and their interpreter became a lasting friend to them. It was clear that she wanted to help them in every way she could, to make their transition a smooth one. They had a driver, as they were not allowed to drive there. Shanghai, which is the financial capital of China, is in many ways comparable to New York. They both stated that the traffic was awful, the skill level of many drivers was not the best and it was both a relief and great fun to be driven around. While Beth had to work every day, Becky was able to explore new places with the driver, and able to take fabulous state of the art pictures, which they shared with us.

They also were provided with a four room apartment in a new high rise, and a cleaning lady who came in twice a week. On her work days this woman cooked rural traditional Chinese food for them, which consisted of mainly vegetables. The language barrier was gapped by a thumbs up or down for the meal.

Becky was actually able to enter the elementary schools to speak with the children. Many of the younger children in China are now bilingual and could speak English. Many of their parents could somewhat understand, but often refused to try and speak it. Becky said it was great fun spending time with them.

Of course at a Perceptions meeting, everyone wanted to know about how they dealt with their sexuality. Beth said that in the beginning, many of the people thought they were sisters. As time went on, it became clear that their driver and interpreter were getting it, but didn't speak about it. Because of the government, they took a quiet approach and this seemed successful. As they said, that they were white and big was of more interest to the people than anything else.

On the whole, their presentation was interesting and insightful. For me, who never considered China a place I would want to go, it changed my mind completely. All in all, it was an interesting and relaxed night. There were snacks, including a great apple cake provided by Chris and Greg, and many of us stayed to talk and socialize with Beth and Becky.

Thanksgiving Potluck

by Daphne Barkley



Join us for our annual Thanksgiving potluck Thursday November 21st at 7pm at St John's Episcopal Church in Saginaw. Usher in the beginning of the holiday season with friends, food, and fun. In addition to turkey with fixings, past years have included such tasty treats as hummingbird cake and other homemade goodies. Please bring a canned or dry good for donation so that others may have a joyous holiday celebration as well. Hope to see everyone there!

Perceptions Picnic Compliments a Fast-Paced Summer Calendar by Chris Lauckner

A picnic was held on Thursday evening, August 22nd, for Perceptions Saginaw Valley members, friends, and allies. Approximately 40 individuals arrived at Pavilion #1, at the beautiful Harvey Randall Wickes Recreational Area, Saginaw County.

This event followed the many Pride related events in and around Michigan, plus summer festivals, July 4th events, bear runs, leather events, the Michigan Womyn's Festival, Camp-It excursions to Saugatuck, MI, family reunions, vacations, milestone birthday and anniversary celebrations, as well as celebrating with friends, choosing to marry the person that they love following the Supreme Court's landmark decision to strike down DOMA. Now, that is a lot of summer activity!

The picnic had attendees appreciating the sunny weather and light, warm breezes as they shared their summer experiences. Picnic fare included hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, coleslaw, a variety of chips, fruit, desserts and beverages.

Thanks to Dillon, Dann, Roger, Joel, Kelly, Garry, Daphne, Greg, and Becky for the assistance with sharing ideas, shopping, set up, providing games and music, as well as grilling those delicious hot dogs and hamburgers!

The summer days are gone; however, many great memories will be ours to hold for a lifetime.



Attorney Jay Kaplan to Speak at Perceptions October Meeting by Kathy Lloyd



Jay Kaplan, an attorney with the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project, is the speaker for the Perceptions October meeting. The meeting is set for 7:00 p.m. On October 17, 2013 at the Alderton Building, 301 Cass St. in Saginaw.

Kaplan has been the attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's Project since 2001. Prior to working for the ACLU he was an attorney with the Michigan Protection and Advocacy Project, where he started the HIV/AIDS Advocacy Project. The ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project focuses on equality issues and challenges discrimination in the courts and legislature.

Mr. Kaplan will discuss issues such as DOMA in Michigan and how the Supreme Court's recent decision will impact our community. He has been a strong, consistent, legal advocate for LGBT rights, for many years. So please join us, to get the latest word on what is happening both in Lansing and Washington D.C., all of which will have a huge impact on us and our families.

Current Events

events.PerceptionsSV.org

▼ **Tues., October 1st - Perceptions Transgender Group**

7:00 pm. The Alderton Bldg., 301 Cass St., Saginaw.

▼ **October 4th - Friday Night Dinner**

7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at Zef's Coney Island, 201 Third Street, Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Fri.

▼ **October 4th-13th – “Young Frankenstein”**

Pit and Balcony Theatre, Saginaw. A wickedly inspired re-imagining of the Frankenstein legend based on Mel Brooks' classic comedy masterpiece, this three-time Tony-Nominated musical follows bright young Dr. Frankenstein as he attempts to complete his grandfather's masterwork and bring a corpse to life. Together with his endearing helper Igor, his curvaceous lab assistant Inga, and in spite of his incredibly self-involved madcap fiancée Elizabeth, Frankenstein succeeds in creating a monster—but not without scary and quite often hilarious complications. Featuring such memorable tunes as “The Transylvania Mania,” “He Vas My Boyfriend” and “Puttin' On The Ritz.” Tickets \$22. For more information, visit www.pitandbalconytheatre.com

▼ **Sat., October 5th - “Inlaws & Outlaws”**

4:00 pm. Bradley House Theatre, 403 S. Jefferson Ave., Saginaw. What do you get when you fall in love? Maybe this is one of the hardest question to answer nowadays, especially when this love leads you towards a marriage. In a subject where so many controversial opinions merge, the best alternative is to bring discussion and reflection. Interested in making a difference in the community, the Bradley House Film Series brings us the movie “Inlaws & Outlaws,” that weaves together the true stories of couples and singles— both gay and straight — into a collective narrative that is as hilarious as it is heartbreaking. The movie will be followed by a discussion on marriage equality. For more information, see page 9.

▼ **October 5th - 10th—“And Then They Came For Me”**

A multimedia play that combines videotaped interviews with Holocaust survivors Ed Silverberg and Eva Schloss with live actors recreating scenes from their lives during World War II. Ed was Anne Frank's first boyfriend, and she wrote about him in the beginning of her now-famous diary. Eva Schloss was the same age as Anne Frank and lived in the same apartment building in Amsterdam. Her family went into hiding the same day as the Frank family. And like the Frank family, they were betrayed, arrested by the Nazis, and sent to concentration camps. Eva and her mother survived, and after the war her mother married Otto Frank (Anne's father). Part oral history, part dramatic action, part direct address, part remembrance, the ensemble-driven “And Then They Came for Me” breaks new ground and has been acclaimed by audiences and critics in world-wide productions. SVSU's Malcolm Field Theatre. \$10 general admission. Visit www.svsu.edu/theatre for more information.

▼ **October 11th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at Savoy Grill, 127 S. Franklin, Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Fri.

▼ **Sun., October 13th – Genesee County PFLAG Meeting**

2:00 pm. UU Church of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint.

▼ **Tues., October 15th – Men's Discussion Group**

7:00 pm. This gathering is intended as a discussion and informal support group for gay and bisexual men. The group will be facilitated by Chris Lauckner. You may contact him at Chris@PerceptionsSV.org for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks will be provided. **The Alderton Bldg.**, 301 Cass Street, Old Town Saginaw

▼ **Thurs., October 17th – Perceptions Monthly Meeting**

7:00 pm. The Alderton Bldg., 301 Cass St., Saginaw. Jay Kaplan of ACLU will discuss legal issues affecting the LGBT community. See page 4 for more details. Refreshments served. All are welcome.

▼ **October 18th - Friday Night Dinner**

7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at La Señorita Restaurant, 1516 S. Mission Street, Mount Pleasant. If you plan to attend, please reply to RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Fri.

▼ **Sun., October 20th – PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting**

2:00 to 4:30 pm. The meeting takes place at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter Rd., Saginaw. For more information contact pflag@pflag-mbs.org or 989-941-1458.

▼ **October 25th - Friday Night Dinner**

7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends this week at Court Street Grill, 100 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm Fri.











▼ **Fri., October 25th - PFLAG Fall Bowling Bash**

7:00 pm. B's Bowling Center, 750 S. Center Rd., Flint. \$20 includes two games of 9 Pin No Tap Cosmic Glow bowling, shoe rental, pizza and soda. \$12.50 for non-bowlers. 50/50 Drawing. Costume Contest. Please register by October 16. Check in 30 minutes prior to play. Proceeds from the event help Genesee County PFLAG continue to offer Support, Advocacy, and Education. For more information or to register, contact Chris T. at 810-640-8500 or trose0424@yahoo.com.

▼ **Event sponsored or endorsed by Perceptions.**

To be informed about upcoming events, simply send a blank email to: PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

OCTOBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
		1  Perceptions Transgender Group The Alderton Bldg. 301 Cass St., Saginaw 7:00 PM	2	3	4  Friday Night Dinner Zef's Coney Island 201 Third St. Bay City 7:00 PM	5 "Inlaws & Outlaws" Bradley House Theatre 403 S. Jefferson Ave. Saginaw 4:00 PM																																																																																				
6	7	8  Perceptions Board of Trustees Meeting	9	10	11  National Coming Out Day Friday Night Dinner Savoy Grill 127 S. Franklin St. Saginaw 7:00 PM	12																																																																																				
13  Genesee County PFLAG Meeting UU Church of Flint 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy Flint, 2:00 - 4:30 PM	14 Columbus Day	15  Perceptions Men's Discussion Group The Alderton Bldg. 301 Cass St., Saginaw 7:00 - 8:30 PM	16	17  Perceptions General Meeting The Alderton Bldg. 301 Cass St., Saginaw 7:00 - 8:30 PM	18  Friday Night Dinner La Señorita 1516 S. Mission St. Mt Pleasant 7:00 PM	19																																																																																				
20  Tri-Cities PFLAG Meeting Our Saviour Lutheran 2525 Hemmeter Rd. Saginaw, 2:00 - 4:30 PM	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day	25  Friday Night Dinner Court Street Grill 100 S. Michigan Ave. Saginaw 7:00 PM	26																																																																																				
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Dollars n' Cents

by Greg Gwaltney

This is the third quarter we've shared treasury information with you. This is our continued effort to be transparent about Perceptions financial information. This quarter, we'll discuss internal controls. Internal controls are the checks and balances in place to ensure accuracy and timeliness of financial results. One way we've increased internal controls this year is by developing a **Check/Check Card Request Form**. As you can see below, the Request Form documents key data needed to process a check. In addition, it has the following internal controls:

Purpose

This ensures purchases are for approved activities, programs, or administration.

Required Receipt

This is proof of the amount, item purchased, and store/supplier.

Signature of the Submitter

This indicates the submitter is known and has taken responsibility for the submitted expense.

Board Member Signature

This ensures an independent member reviewed the submission and agreed it should be paid. Perceptions has other internal controls in place, such as bank reconciliations and the board's monthly review of financial statements. In the future, we'll discuss other internal controls in place to ensure financial accuracy and timeliness.

Perceptions Saginaw Valley Check/Check Card Request Form

1. To whom is the check to be written?

Treasurer to complete
Check # _____
Date _____
Amount _____

 Name _____
 Address _____
2. Purpose (what is/was the money spent for?)

 Is this a reimbursement? Yes No
3. Date the check is needed: _____ Amount of check: \$ _____
 Date this form was submitted _____
4. Contact details of the person submitting this form:
 Name _____ Phone _____
 Signature _____
5. Approved by _____
(If the form is submitted by the Committee Chairperson, it must be approved by an Executive Team Member.)
6. Attach receipts to back of this form.
7. Please indicate the budget item which is to be charged:

Event Expenses Specify Name of Event (_____) <input type="checkbox"/> Supplies & Printing <input type="checkbox"/> Postage <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Beverage <input type="checkbox"/> Fees & Professional Services <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> AIDS Walk Events <input type="checkbox"/> Promotions <input type="checkbox"/> Donations & Gifts <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fees <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Rentals <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Unrestricted Expenses <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising - print media <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising - promotional items <input type="checkbox"/> Board meeting expenses <input type="checkbox"/> Donations <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Expense <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Outreach Care <input type="checkbox"/> Grants <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> License & fees <input type="checkbox"/> Member meeting expenses <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Office supplies & expense <input type="checkbox"/> PayPal Fees <input type="checkbox"/> Postage <input type="checkbox"/> Programming <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker fees & honoraria <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone (mobile or card use) <input type="checkbox"/> Training & Seminars <input type="checkbox"/> Web site expenses <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Restricted Funds Expenses <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Affirmations Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Pride Fund

If you would like a copy of the Check Request Form or have any questions regarding the Perception financial statements, please contact the Perceptions Treasurer Greg

Perceptions Holiday Gala 2013

by Dillon Moorehead

Happy Holidays!

I know, I know... it seems like Labor Day was just here and how dare you utter those words, unless of course you are referring to Halloween, which may be permissible... BUT—it is the holidays that I am writing to you about today—in particular the Perceptions Holiday Gala!

Believe it or not, December 7th will be upon us in no time at all and as this year's Gala Chair I want to get the word out early! This year we will again be celebrating the season at Apple Mountain in Freeland and the night will prove to be fabulous as always!

We are very pleased to announce that fifty percent of the evening's proceeds will be donated to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Great Lakes Bay Region. Can you think of a better cause to pair with Perceptions? What a great way to celebrate the holiday season and raise money for these two organizations!

The committee this year is tirelessly working to bring back many of those favorite events to Apple Mountain as we have an evening of Friends, Fun, and Fund Raising. Look forward to the silent auction during cocktail hour, live auctions during the night, and let's not forget that awesome dinner at Apple

Mountain, to be followed by a Dessert and Candy bar, provided by the Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe, and dancing for the evening!

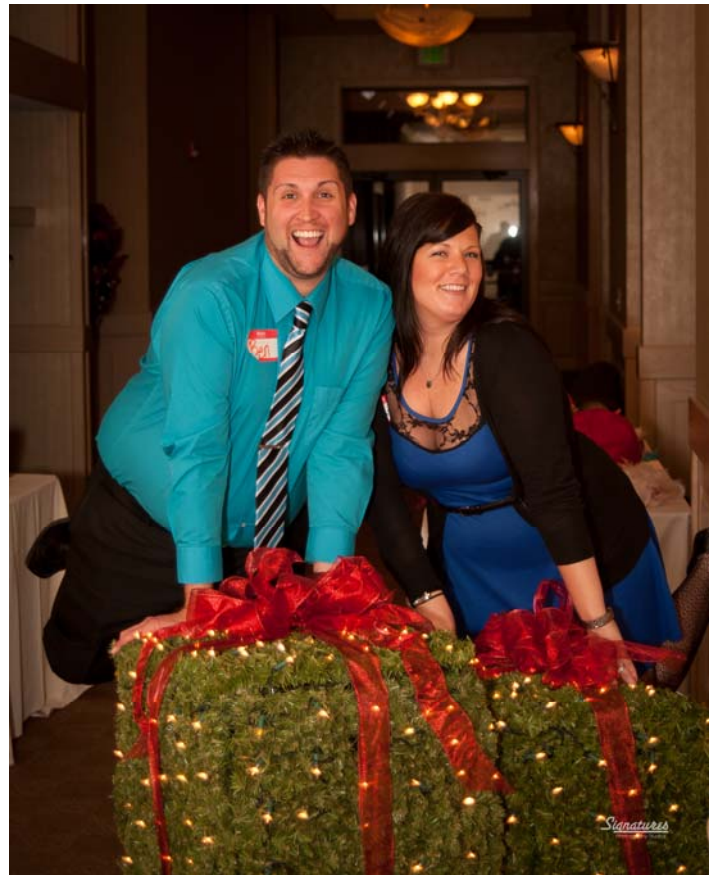
Also returning this year will be the Photo Booth and Props from Signatures Photo Studio, raffles, and even some ugly Christmas sweaters. In addition, there will also be several fifty-fifty drawings, games to play, and a bit of special entertainment or two.

So grab a friend or two and come crush a cup with us this December as we kick it up in honor of the year and look forward to the next!

If you need tickets, please contact any Perceptions Trustee or go online to PerceptionsSV.org.

Also, if you would like to help out during the evening there are many tasks that the committee could use a little help with!

Thank you again, and see you there!



Bradley House Film Series Goes For Marriage Equality With The Movie “Inlaws & Outlaws”

What do you get when you fall in love? Maybe this is one of the hardest question to answer nowadays, especially when this love leads you towards a marriage. In a subject where so many controversial opinions merge, the best alternative is to bring discussion and reflection. Interested in making a difference in the community, the Bradley House Film Series

brings us the movie “Inlaws & Outlaws,” that weaves together the true stories of couples and singles— both gay and straight — into a collective narrative that is as hilarious as it is heartbreaking. The movie will be followed by a discussion on marriage equality on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at Bradley House Theatre, 403 S Jefferson Ave., Saginaw, at 4:00 pm. FREE ADMISSION

Neatly side-stepping the red/blue divide, director Drew Emery takes an innovative approach to story by putting everyone — regardless of sexuality — on the same level playing field and asking them everything they know about marriage, at the same time you see stories of people like two Mormon women, following the path their parents have chosen for them, or an ex-Marine who has no idea what a happy relationship looks like until he stumbles across his future partner, and also the nice girl from Brooklyn who somehow always picks the guys who don't treat her right. But more than only stories, you meet real people one on one. You don't know who's gay or straight or who's with whom. As their stories unfold and stereotypes fall by the wayside, you won't care because you'll be rooting for everybody.

“Inlaws & Outlaws” is a film about marriage that speaks from experience, rather than the pulpit. Whether loving inside or outside of marriage, struggling to get in or suing to get out, we follow the lives of ordinary folks as they figure out their own path to *happily ever after*, world winner of innumerable Film Festivals, “Inlaws & Outlaws” has received good reviews from audience and critics.

Honest, irreverent and compelling, “Inlaws & Outlaws” takes one of our time's most divisive topics and turns it into the feel-good movie that's as charming as it is irresistible.



PERCEPTIONS HOLIDAY GALA 2013

A Night of Friends, Fun, and Fund Raising

Saturday, December 7th

Apple Mountain Conference Center
4519 N. River Road, Freeland, MI, 48623

Come join friends old and new for a night of food, fun, and fund raising this December 7th at the Apple Mountain Conference Center.

Cocktails at 6:00 PM - Dinner at 7:30 PM

We are enthusiastically welcoming Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Great Lakes Bay Region in a show of support for both of these great organizations. Perceptions will be contributing 50% of this evening's proceeds to Big Brothers Big Sisters.

This year's Holiday Gala will include an evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing, silent auction, live auction, raffles, fifty-fifty drawings, special entertainment, and surprises too!

Tickets can be purchased from all Perceptions trustees, or online at PerceptionsSV.org

General Admission - \$35.00 Students - \$20.00 (with valid student ID)
All guests age 18 and over please.

Perceptions Saginaw Valley and Big Brothers Big Sisters are 501(c)(3) charitable organizations reaching out serving the region. Step out and join us as we begin this holiday season!



Hope to see you there!

Perception's Mission is to provide superior educational programs, networking opportunities and services for the well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals and their community.

THE EVENING'S MENU:

HERB ROASTED CHICKEN,
SLICED ROAST BEEF

ROASTED RED SKIN POTATOES
CALIFORNIA VEGETABLE BLEND

PLATTER STYLE HOUSE SALAD
FRESH FRUIT SALAD
PASTA SALAD
ASSORTED DINNER ROLLS
NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

DESSERT AND CANDY BAR
GRACIOUSLY DONATED BY:



An Evening with Greg Louganis

To mark its 25 years serving the needs of local men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS, Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center brought Olympic champion diver Greg Louganis to the area. On September 20, the night before the AIDS Walk, the athlete was interviewed before an audience at SVSU. Afterwards, he signed autographs and posed for pictures. He also attended the AIDS Walk, the next morning.

Louganis has four gold medals, from the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games. At the '88 games he suffered a concussion when he hit his head during the preliminaries. He continued to perform, despite the injury. Louganis is openly gay and tested positive for HIV in 1988. In 1995, he co-wrote a *New York Times* #1 bestselling autobiography titled "Breaking the Surface," in which he talked about being in an abusive relationship, among other things. More recently, he appeared on the reality show "Splash." He is currently engaged to his boyfriend, Johnny.



Great Lakes Bay Region AIDS Walk 2013

The Great Lakes Bay Region AIDS Walk was held on Saturday, September 21st. It has grown to become the largest walk in Michigan, both in number of walkers and amount of money raised.

The walkers arrived at Bay City's Wenonah Park around 9:30 am and were treated to light snacks, juice and anniversary cake, in honor of Sacred Heart's 25 years. Many of the participants warmed up by dancing to music provided by WIOG. After that, Sacred Heart's Tom Brubaker recognized many of the Walk's sponsors. Then, it was time to walk.

For the second year in a row, the top two fundraising teams were the group Collectively Awesome and the employees of Dow. The overall total raised was over \$64,000. The money goes to Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center, which offers care case management, prescription/dental assistance, housing assistance, food pantry and prevention education for those living with HIV/AIDS.